

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 00789 280511 Z

10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 EB-11

COME-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 CIEP-02

RSR-01 /121 W

----- 039045

R 280450 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6465

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 789

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, NZ

SUBJECT: MEAT INDUSTRY RESUMES PRODUCTION

REF: WELLINGTON 747

1. LENGTHY MEETING MARCH 27 BETWEEN LABOUR MINISTER WATT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MEAT INDUSTRY EMPLOYERS AND UNIONS PRODUCED AGREEMENT THAT WORK IN INDUSTRY WOULD RETURN TO NORMAL BEGINNING MIDNIGHT MARCH 28. TWO SIDES AGREED TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW AWARD MARCH 29, WITH NO PRE- CONDITIONS AND WITH AIM TO SETTLING ALL OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. AGREEMENT, IN EFFECT, PUT SITUATION BACK TO WHEN NEGOTIATIONS FIRST OPENED AND CONSTITUTES A STEP BACK FROM CONFRONTATION BY BOTH SIDES.

2. COMMENT: NEITHER SIDE APPEARS WILLING TO GIVE ON QUESTIONS STILL UNSETTLED, AND IT IS LIKELY FURTHER INDUSTRIAL STOPPAGES MAY OCCUR BEFORE AWARD IS COMPLETED. LABOUR MINISTER WATT IS DUE TO LEAVE ON A ONE MONTH OVERSEAS TOUR IN THE NEXT WEEK, LEAVING MINISTER OF HEALTH TIZARD IN CHARGE OF LABOR PORTFOLIO. RUMORS NOW CIRCULATING THAT WATT WILL GIVE UP LABOR PORTFOLIO

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DUE TO AMOUNT OF WORK INVOLVED AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER OF WORKS. TIZARD MAY REPLACE HIM IN THIS
SLOT. WATT'S HANDLING OF MEAT INDUSTRY DISPUTE HAS NOT
BEEN PARTICULARLY APT, AND A CABINET RESHUFFLE APPEARS
NECESSARY IF LABOUR GOVERNMENT WANTS A STRONG LABOUR
MINISTER. DECON 12/31/73
WOOD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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